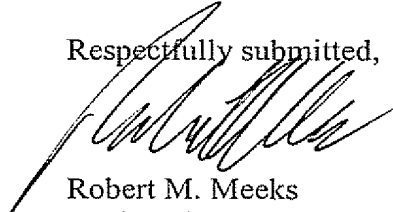


REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the detailed examination evidenced by the final Office Action mailed May 4, 2006 (hereinafter "Final Action") and the Advisory Action mailed August 24, 2006. Applicants further appreciate the continued allowance of Claims 9-22, 37 and 38 and indication that Claims 7, 8, 28-29 and 36 recite patentable subject matter.¹ To expedite allowance and issue, Applicants have amended Claims 7, 28 and 36 to independent form, incorporating the recitations of the respective ones of Claims 1, 23 and 30 from which they depended, and have canceled Claims 1-6, 23-27 and 30-35 without prejudice or disclaimer towards pursuing the subject matter of these claims in a continuing application. Applicants request entry of these amendments, as they introduce no new matter, raise no new issues and place Claims 7-22, 28, 29 and 36-38 in condition for allowance based on the indication of allowability in the Final Action and the Advisory Action.

Applicants, therefore, request allowance of the claims as amended and passing of the application to issue in due course. Applicants urge the Examiner to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at (919) 854-1400 to resolve any remaining formal issues.

Respectfully submitted,

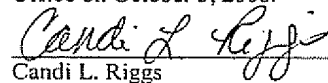


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CERTIFICATION OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted electronically to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on October 3, 2006.



Candi L. Riggs

¹ Applicants note discrepancies in the claims indicated as rejected and allowed in the first sheet of the Advisory Action and in the Office Action Summary of the Final Action, but assume, based on the content of the Final Action, that the claims stand as indicated.